



## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### **Funding Highlights:**

- Provides \$12.1 billion in funding for the operations of the Social Security Administration to provide services to the American public, including workers, retirees, surviving spouses and children, and people with disabilities. This includes:
  - Investing in customer service, including \$100 million in a new modernization initiative to improve online and in-person services; and
  - Establishing a dependable mandatory source of funding for Continuing Disability Reviews and Supplemental Security Income Redeterminations, which reduce program costs and enhance program integrity by ensuring that only those eligible for benefits receive them.

### **Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:**

- Through the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, supports:
  - Expanding on the new customer service modernization initiative, investing an additional \$150 million to further reduce wait times and enhance services for the public.

### **Reforms:**

- Funds pilot projects to test innovative strategies to help people with disabilities remain in the workforce, in partnership with other Federal agencies.
- Prevents duplicative or excessive benefit payments through a series of targeted reforms.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The President believes that Social Security is critical to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to retire with dignity and that Americans with disabilities do not have to experience economic hardship. To fund this commitment, the Budget includes \$12.1 billion for SSA operations. The

Budget also supports pilot programs to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities and enhancements to program integrity.

### ***Protects Social Security for Future Generations***

The President believes that Social Security is indispensable to workers, retirees, survivors, and people with disabilities and that it is one of

the most important and successful programs ever established in the United States. Although current forecasts indicate that Social Security can pay full benefits until 2033, the Administration is committed to making sure that the program is solvent and viable for the American people, now and in the future. The President is strongly opposed to privatizing Social Security and looks forward to working in a bipartisan way to strengthen the program for future generations.

**Improves Customer Service.** As part of the Administration's second term management agenda's focus on improving key citizen- and business-facing transactions, the Budget includes \$100 million for a new customer service modernization initiative to significantly improve internet and in-person services at SSA. These investments will save time for the agency as well as for the public. In addition, the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative includes \$150 million in additional funding to further reduce wait times and enhance services for the public.

***Enhances Program Integrity in Disability Programs and Pilots Pro-Work Interventions***

**Reduces Program Costs by Providing Reliable Funding for Program Integrity Work.** The Budget proposes to establish a dependable source of mandatory funding in 2016 for Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) and SSI Redeterminations, which ensure that only those eligible for benefits continue to receive them. SSA estimates that each \$1 spent on CDRs would save the Federal Government \$9. SSA could save an estimated \$35 billion over 10 years through this proposal and reduce the current backlog of 1.3 million overdue CDRs.

**Prevents Duplicative or Excessive Benefit Payments.** The Budget enhances collection of delinquent debts owed to the Government by applying the Treasury Offset Program to retroactive Disability Insurance (DI) payments, and proposes to automate coordination of disability benefit payments between the Office of Personnel

Management (OPM) and SSA, which would substantially reduce overpayments. Further, the Budget proposes to reduce an individual's DI benefit in any month in which that person also receives a State or Federal unemployment benefit. In addition, the Budget proposes to eliminate aggressive Social Security claiming strategies, which allow upper-income beneficiaries to manipulate the timing of collection of Social Security benefits in order to maximize delayed retirement credits.

**Improves Tax Administration by Restructuring Federal Wage Reporting.** The Budget proposes to restructure the Federal wage reporting process by moving from annual to quarterly wage reporting. Increasing the timeliness of wage reporting will enhance tax administration and improve program integrity for a range of programs. The Administration will work with States to ensure that the overall reporting burden on employers is not increased. The Budget also proposes to lower the Electronic Wage Reporting Threshold for W-2s/W-3s from 250 employees to 25. The vast majority of employers with between 25 and 250 employees already choose to report electronically.

**Tests New Ways to Boost Employment.** The Budget provides new authority and \$400 million in new resources for SSA, in partnership with other Federal agencies, to test innovative strategies to help people with disabilities remain in the workforce. Early-intervention measures, such as supportive employment services for individuals with mental impairments, targeted incentives for employers to help workers with disabilities remain on the job, and incentives and opportunities for States to better coordinate services, have the potential to achieve long-term gains in the employment and the quality of life of people with disabilities, and the proposed demonstration authority will help build the evidence base for future program improvements. The cost of the demonstrations could be offset by the proposal to automate coordination of disability benefit payments between OPM and SSA and other program integrity measures.